



Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

Please Note:

- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:

Fax - (202) 224-2354

Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

- Requests are due by February 15, 2008.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Steller Sea Lion Conservation and Co-management

Project Location: Alaska - statewide, predominantly Southeast, PWS, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, Kodiak

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission, an Alaska Native Organization, has a well established research program with local communities for sea lion conservation and management. All research we are involved with occurs at the local level, building local capacity, and strengthening rural economies. We request \$400,000 through NOAA Fisheries for Steller Sea Lion Comanagement with NOAA Fisheries. Specifically we will 1) work with two communities in an intensive ecological monitoring program, 2) train 25 individuals in sea lion biosampling techniques for the collection of vitally important biological samples to monitor the health and condition of sea lions, 3) promote Alaska Native subsistence, traditions and full utilization through education and outreach, and 4) develop co-management structures and systems for sea lions.

Related Appropriations Bill: Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$400,000

Total funding to complete this project: \$1,200,000

Number of years to fund this project: 3

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \$0

Matching funds from local and private entities:

\$0

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

FY 2008, Consolidated Funding through Department of Commerce:
\$200,000

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: \$0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$0

☐ Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 USC 1388

Check all that apply:

- ☐ A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- ☒ Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

Attachment 1: Report or Legislative Language

Under the National Marine Fisheries Service, modeled from previous Senate Committee reports:

“The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission for sea lion conservation and co-management with local communities: \$400,000”

Attachment 2: TASSC National Marine Fisheries Service FY 2009 Appropriation Request Budget Detail: Sea Lion Conservation and Co-management

Introduction and Background

The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission is an Alaska Native tribal consortium with non-profit corporation status under Alaska Statute and federal tax statutes. The Alaska Sea Otter Commission formed in 1988 to promote the cooperative management of northern sea otters. At the request of member communities, in 1998 the Alaska Sea Otter Commission broadened its scope to include Steller sea lions research and management and expanded to “The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission” (TASSC).

TASSC's objectives include promoting the role of Alaska Natives in sea otter and Steller sea lion conservation and management efforts, assessing sea otter and Steller sea lion populations in Alaska through cultural science (TEK) and local biological research, working with regulatory agencies toward the common goal of conservation and management of healthy sea otter and sea lion populations, and educating and informing our youth and the public about the traditional and contemporary relationship between Alaska Natives, sea otters, and Steller sea lions.

TASSC represents Alaska Native and tribal organizations on matters regarding sea otters, or sea otters and Steller sea lions within six Alaska Native regions (Southeast, Chugach, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Bristol Bay, and Aleutian/Pribilofs). In addition to spanning a vast geographical area, the ethnic composition of the region is diverse, and heavily dependent upon a subsistence lifestyle.

Steller Sea Lion Conservation and Co-management

TASSC proposes to implement in FY2009 *Steller Sea Lion Co-management, Biosampling and Outreach/Education*. TASSC represents 41 tribal governments and Alaska Native Organizations on matters pertaining to Steller sea lion subsistence.

Steller Sea Lion Biosampling: Subsistence hunted Steller sea lion biosamples are very valuable to the research community. Collection and analysis of these samples can provide critical information available from no other source and is recognized as a top priority activity in the 1992 and soon to be finalized Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan. The importance of collecting samples from animals taken for subsistence is widely recognized. National Marine Mammal Lab, AK

Department of Fish & Game, AK Sea Life Center and the University of AK have all offered their services to further the collection of this important sample source.

In mid-2008, TASSC will distribute the *Alaska Native Hunters Guide to Steller Sea Lion Biosampling* (Guide). Funded through the Steller Sea Lion Research Initiative and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wildlife and Parks, we intend to utilize the Guide for biosampling training. We will take a two-prong approach to sea lion biosampling. First, we will work with two high harvest communities to fund local monitors – local residents that will work with hunters and facilitate sea lion biosampling, and help to monitor and document the local environment.

In addition, we will train approximately 25 coastal Alaska residents on proper sample collection techniques and protocols from those sea lions harvested for subsistence. The Guide provides a standard protocol for sea lion biosampling by subsistence users, something not achieved in all the research conducted past and presently for Steller sea lions.

Additionally, we have secured a research permit through the NMFS for accepting samples collected from sea lion subsistence hunted animals.

Co-management Structures: We recognize that there are costs associated with the development of co-management structures. We have allocated travel funds so that co-management structures can be developed and that Commission governance can occur.

Education and Outreach: Education and outreach is a critical component of any research plan. It's vitally important to continue to reach subsistence users, but also the general public. To accomplish this, we have a number of products planned.

- Newsletter on sea lion biosampling, current and upcoming research and results, population and trends, management actions.
- Video on Sea Lion Biosampling: the video will be compiled from the community trainings that will not only highlight the work that has been done but also can serve as a training tool or as a refresher for those already trained.
- 2010 Calendar: A 2010 calendar will be produced to highlight and celebrate sea lion subsistence and co-management. It will also contain information on the laws and regulations pertaining to sea lion subsistence, and research results.
- Hand Book on Sea Lion Subsistence Laws and Regulations will be produced and widely distributed
- The Sea Lion Biosampling Guide will be reproduced and widely distributed.

<u>Personnel:</u>		<u>\$131,000</u>
Harvest Monitoring/Biosampling Coordinator (1 FTE)	46,000	
Executive Director (1 FTE)	65,000	
Intern (2 PT internships)	20,000	

<u>Fringe:</u>		<u>\$ 43,200</u>
Fringe @ 33%		

Travel: \$ 64,000

Travel to two communities with intensive monitoring programs:

(2 trips to each community) 8,000Steller Sea lion Biosampling: 31,000

A minimum of 25 people will be trained via 5 individual community workshops in those areas identified with the highest harvest rates. Workshops will be held in the following regions: Chugach Region, Kodiak Region, Cook Inlet Region, Aleutian Islands Region.

Co-management and Governance: 25,000

Funds are allocated for travel so that meetings can occur with NMFS, regional organizations, and local communities to develop sea lion co-management structures. In addition, funds are provided for TASSC Board of Commissioners to meet in Anchorage.

Supplies: \$ 15,000Biosampling Supplies & Kits: 12,000Meeting Supplies: 600Education and Outreach Supplies: 2,400

A sampling kit will be provided to each biosampler. Each kit is estimated at approximately \$480. Additional supplies will be purchased and replacement supplies will be provided to each biosampler after a sampling event. Funds are also provided for meeting supplies and for education and outreach supplies. These include DVDs, video tapes, etc.

Equipment: \$ 0

No equipment is anticipated for this project.

Contractual \$50,000

TASSC anticipates contractual services of \$25,000 each to two communities to implement intensive ecological monitoring within their communities.

Other: \$ 96,800Biosamplers: 10,000Meeting space for biosampling workshops 1,500Calendar: 8,500Biosampling Guide: 900Newsletter: 1,000Video 8,000Handbook on Laws and Regulations: 2,300Administrative support: 64,600

- A 2010 calendar will be produced highlighting subsistence of sea lion, as well containing information on current research and population status.
- A newsletter will be produced featuring information on sea lion biosampling, research, current trends, and management information.
- The community trainings will be video taped and a video will be produced from the

aggregate footage. While not only documenting the training events, the video will be useful in future training endeavors or as a refresher to those already trained.

- The Biosampling Guide will be reprinted and widely distributed. This is estimated at \$900.
- TASSC's Handbook on Sea Otter and Sea Lion Laws and Regulations will be updated, reprinted and widely distributed.
- Administrative Support is approximately 20% of the total direct costs. This includes but is not limited to such necessary items and services as: payroll costs, local phone service, internet service, utilities, maintenance, office rental, postal fees, copying, computer and office supplies. Additionally, Administrative Support includes funds for such necessary administrative functions as bookkeeping, legal fees, accounting, and technical assistance.

TOTAL: \$ 400,000



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Sea Otter and Sea Lion Subsistence Management

Project Location: Alaska - statewide (Southeast, PWS, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, Kodiak, Aleutians)

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission works to ensure and further Alaska Natives' role in sea otter and sea lion conservation, co-management, education and artistic development. We are seeking continued funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for \$200,000 for the development of co-management plans for sea otters and sea lions by local communities in the interests of sustainable wildlife populations and increasing involvement in subsistence management. This will lead to increased participation in the regulatory process of subsistence management, which will promote sustainable harvests, stable populations and full utilization.

Related Appropriations Bill: Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$200,000

Total funding to complete this project: \$600,000

Number of years to fund this project: 3

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \$0

Matching funds from local and private entities:

\$0

List legislation that authorizes this project:

PL 93-638 Indian Self Determination Act
BIA Alaska Region Strategic Plan, DOI Strategic Plan**Check all that apply:**

- ☐ A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- ☒ Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.
Included in the 2007 Senate Report at \$100,000
Funded in 2006: \$107,515; 2005: \$98,000; 2004: \$100,000; 2003: \$100,000;
2002: \$69,000

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: \$0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$0

☐ Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission
FY 2009 DOI BIA Appropriation Request supplement

Attachment 1:
Report or Legislative Language

Under Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, modeled from previous Senate committee reports:
"Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission, \$200,000"



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Sea Otter Co-management and Conservation

Project Location: Alaska - statewide, predominantly Southeast, PWS, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, Kodiak, Aleutians

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission, an Alaska Native Organization, has a well established cooperative program with the USFWS and local communities for sea otter research and conservation. All research we are involved with occurs at the local community level, providing important information on sea otter biology, population status, place in AK Native culture and incorporated traditional ecological knowledge. Because it occurs locally, we are building capacity and creating jobs in rural Alaska.

We request \$350,000 for continued sea otter comanagement between TASSC and the USFWS, 2) continued sea otter population monitoring work with 10 Alaskan coastal communities, 3) promote Alaska Native handicraft, full utilization and Alaska Native traditions, and 4) education and outreach.

Related Appropriations Bill: Dept. of Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$350,000

Total funding to complete this project: \$1,050,000

Number of years to fund this project: 3

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \$0

Matching funds from local and private entities:

\$0

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
16 U.S.C. 1388

Check all that apply:

- ☐ A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- ☒ Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Dept of Interior: 2006: 367,000; 2005: \$438,000; 2004: \$435,966; 2003: \$447,000; 2002: \$485,000; 2001: \$80,000. Included in both House and Senate reports for FY2007 (\$333,333). There is \$250,000 in FWS base budget to be used for 119 comanagement of sea otters, polar bear and walrus.

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: \$80,000

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$0

☐ Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

**Attachment 1:
Report or Legislative Language**

Under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Modeled from previous Senate committee reports:
"1 million for continued marine mammal research through the Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission, Alaska Nanuq Commission, and Eskimo Walrus Commission."

**Attachment 2:
TASSC U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FY09 Appropriations Request
Budget Detail: Sea Otter Co-Management**

LOCAL SEA OTTER ABUNDANCE TREND SURVEYS

Building on local capacity and community involvement, this project uses trained local residents for counting sea otters around their local community. With a decline in sea otter populations in the Aleutians and personal comment from hunters in the lower Alaska Peninsula, this project gives important information on sea otter population trend and distribution. Further, because the methods are standardized, these sites can serve as population index sites throughout Alaska.

Through this objective, we will continue to maintain those communities currently conducting the surveys to develop long-term records and assess sea otter population trend.

Personnel	\$ 45,000
Coordinator	\$45,000
Fringe @ 33%	\$ 14,850
Travel	\$ 15,950
Travel and per diem is estimated at \$15,950 for travel to each of the communities conducting the surveys. We will work with them on survey implementation and have community presentations to discuss the survey findings and trends with participating communities.	
Contractual	\$ 99,000
Contracts will be developed with Unalaska, Cordova, Port Graham/Nanwalek, Yakutat, Sand Point, Craig, Hydaburg, Ouzinkie, Seldovia and Chignik Lagoon for local survey implementation.	
Equipment	\$ 0
No equipment is anticipated for this project.	
Supplies	\$ 2,000
As needed, survey supplies will be replaced or replenished. These include items such as binoculars, GPS, Survey forms, and PDFs.	
Other	\$ 36,375

Administrative Support is approximately 20% of the total direct costs. This includes but is not limited to such necessary items and services as: payroll costs, local phone service, internet service, utilities, maintenance, office rental, postal fees, copying, computer and office supplies. Additionally, Administrative Support includes funds for such necessary administrative functions as bookkeeping, legal fees, accounting, and technical assistance.

One newsletter will be produced highlighting the accomplishments and results of the community surveys.

TOTAL: \$213,175

SEA OTTER WINTER MORTALITY SURVEYS

The Sea Otter Winter Mortality Survey partners local community members with scientific researchers to assess population status and sample stranded sea otters. Samples can be used for genetics, contaminants, disease profile assessment and parasite load investigations. TASSC will work with three communities currently conducting these surveys: Cordova, Yakutat, and Seldovia. Work of this scope is especially important considering that sea otters in SW Alaska were recently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and an Unusual Mortality Event was declared in Southcentral Alaska, the cause of which has not yet been determined.

Travel \$ 6,500

TASSC will travel to each of the communities implementing the surveys to provide technical assistance and hold community meetings on survey findings, sea otter population trends and issues. Funds are also allocated for travel to an additional community for program training.

Contractual \$ 14,000

TASSC will contract with Native Village of Eyak in Cordova, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and Seldovia Native Association for sea otter winter mortality survey implementation.

Equipment \$ 0

No equipment is anticipated for this project.

Supplies \$ 500

TASSC will replenish or replace as necessary items used in the Sea Otter Winter Mortality Survey. These include such necessary items as GPS, datasheets, and teeth extractors.

Other \$ 6,450

Administrative Support is approximately 20% of the total direct costs. This includes but is not limited to such necessary items and services as: payroll costs, local phone service, internet service, utilities, maintenance, office rental, postal fees, copying, computer and office supplies. This also includes funds for such necessary administrative functions as bookkeeping, legal fees, accounting, and technical assistance.

One newsletter will be produced highlighting the work that has been accomplished through this program, the data trends and how they relate to existing knowledge of sea otters.

TOTAL: \$ 27,450

SEA OTTER HANDICRAFT PROMOTION AND OUTREACH

The creation and sale of handicraft is an important component of many local, coastal economies. At a recent planning session, Alaska Native representatives from around that state identified assistance with marketing, handicraft creation and sale, and the need for more information on the laws and regulations for marine mammal subsistence as a top priority.

In 2009, TASSC will hold an Alaska Native Artists and Full Utilization Workshop where 50 participants from across the State will come together to discuss full utilization, marketing techniques, and laws and regulations pertaining to sea otter handicraft and sale. Presentations will be given by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, USFWS Law Enforcement and NMFS Law Enforcement. Full utilization techniques and harvest management practices will also be discussed which promote sea otter conservation.

Education and outreach is an important component of this project. There are many misperceptions in the general public about marine mammal subsistence and the ability of Alaska Natives to utilize marine mammals for art and handicraft. Outreach materials will be created and widely distributed promoting the beauty and quality of sea otter handicraft, with information on the laws and regulations targeted to the general public so they are aware that marine mammal handicraft is legal and culturally important to Alaska Native cultures.

Travel	\$ 70,150
Travel and per diem for 50 participants, including artists, hunters, and local government representatives from throughout coastal Alaska is estimated at \$70,150.	

Contractual	\$ 8,000
TASSC will contract with a videographer to video-document the workshop and a DVD will be created. Highlights will be posted on our website and a copy of the DVD will be provided to meeting participants, and available on request.	

Equipment	\$ 0
No equipment is anticipated for this project.	

Supplies	\$ 2,000
Meeting supplies for 50+ participants are estimated at \$2,000.	

Other	\$ 29,200
Brochure	\$ 5,000
Artists Catalog	\$ 5,000
Newsletter	\$ 1,000
Administrative Support	\$18,200

A brochure will be created that is targeted to the general public and Alaskan visitor to inform about the quality and value of sea otter handicraft, that it is legal to purchase marine mammal products, and emphasizing marine mammal subsistence in Alaska Native cultures.

An Artists Catalog will be created and widely distributed to serve as a resource for individuals that

*The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission
FY 2009 DOI USFWS Appropriation Request supplement*

are seeking quality sea otter handicraft. Target markets will include lower-48 fur markets, upper end boutique stores, and hunting rights organizations such as the Safari Club.

TASSC will produce and disseminate a quarterly newsletter highlighting sea otter artisans, full utilization and sea otter issues.

Administrative Support is approximately 20% of the total direct costs. This includes but is not limited to such necessary items and services as: payroll costs, local phone service, internet service, utilities, maintenance, office rental, postal fees, copying, computer and office supplies. Additionally, Administrative Support includes funds for such necessary administrative functions as bookkeeping, legal fees, accounting, and technical assistance.

TOTAL:	\$109,375
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